

Delta Operations for Salmonids and Sturgeon (DOSS) Group
Conference call: 10/6/2015 at 9:00 a.m.

Objective: Provide advice to the Water Operations Management Team (WOMT) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on measures to reduce adverse effects from Delta operations of the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project on salmonids and green sturgeon. DOSS will work with other technical teams. DOSS notes and advice can be found at: http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/central_valley/water_operations/doss.html.

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Reclamation: Josh Israel, Michele Palmer, Jason Hassrick

NMFS: Barb Byrne, Jeff Stuart, Meiling Roddam

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Agenda Items

1. Agenda review and introductions
2. RPA Implementation review
3. Current Operations
4. Smelt Working Group
5. Fish Monitoring
6. WY 2015 LOBO Annual Review
7. DOSS Advice
8. Next DOSS meeting

Agenda Item 2.

RPA Implementation Review

Delta RPA Actions affecting operations during October:

Action IV.1.1 (Alerts that indicate the Delta Cross Channel (DCC) gate operations may be triggered soon)¹:

- Neither of the two alerts has been triggered since 10/1/15.
- Recent (10/1-10/5/15) conditions for:
 - Wilkins Slough flow: 5,883-5,969 cfs (range of mean daily flow)
 - Knights Landing temperature: 62-66°F (range of temperatures reported at the rotary screw traps during trap checks)
 - Mill Creek flow : 68-79 cfs (range of mean daily flow)
 - Deer Creek flow: 72-84 cfs (range of mean daily flow)

¹ For details, see pages 60-61 in Enclosure 2 of the 2011 Amendments to the 2009 RPA document at: http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/Central_Valley/Water%20Operations/Operations.%20Criteria%20and%20Plan/040711_ocap_opinion_2011_amendments.pdf. Note that in October 2014, NMFS approved a modification of the first component of the first alert to a 95 cfs mean daily flow threshold in either Mill Creek or Deer Creek in lieu of operating the Mill and Deer Creek rotary screw traps.

Action IV.1.2² (DCC gate operations):

- Since 10/1/15, none of the criteria requiring DCC gate closure have been met.

Agenda Item 3.**Current Operations (10/6/2015)**

| SWP | | CVP | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Exports (cfs) | | | |
| Clifton Court Forebay | 300 | Jones Pumping Plant | 800 |
| Reservoir Releases (cfs) | | | |
| Feather - Oroville | 1,200 | American - Nimbus | 600 |
| | | Sacramento - Keswick | 6,800 |
| | | Stanislaus - Goodwin | 200 |
| | | Trinity – Lewiston | 460 |
| Reservoir Storage (in TAF) | | | |
| San Luis (SWP) | 321 | San Luis (CVP) | 64 |
| Oroville | 1,056 | Shasta | 1,562 |
| New Melones | 267 | Folsom | 170 |
| Delta Operations | | | |
| DCC | Open | Sacramento River at Freeport (cfs) | 7,488 |
| Outflow Index (cfs) | 6,400 | San Joaquin River at Vernalis (cfs) | 355 |
| E:I | 13.7% (3-day avg.) | X2 | >81 km |

Salinity management is currently controlling exports.

Current Daily OMR Index is approximately -1,500 cfs.

Removal of the False River Barrier has begun.

Agenda Item 4.***Smelt Working Group (SWG)***

The group has not yet met but will most likely begin meeting in late November. Previous SWG meeting notes are available at: http://www.fws.gov/sfbaydelta/cvp-swp/smelt_working_group.cfm.

Agenda Item 5.

Fish Monitoring: The following table presents fish monitoring data summarized since the start of the current season's sampling (note variable periods due to variable start dates). Starting next week, summaries will include only the most recent week of data. Unless otherwise noted,

² For details, see pages 62-66 in Enclosure 2 of the 2011 Amendments to the 2009 RPA document at: http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/Central_Valley/Water%20Operations/Operations,%20Criteria%20and%20Plan/040711_ocap_opinion_2011_amendments.pdf

reported sizes are fork length. See also:

<http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/operationscontrol/calfed/calfedmonitoring.cfm>.

| Location | Chippis Is. Midwater Trawl | Sacramento Trawl | Beach Seines | Knights Landing RST ^A | Tisdale RST ^B | GCID RST | Mossdale Kodiak Trawl |
|----------------------|----------------------------|------------------|--------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------|-----------------------|
| Sample Date | 9/27-10/3 | 9/27-10/3 | 9/27-10/3 | 9/16-10/4 | 9/9-10/4 | 9/1-10/5 | 9/27-10/3 |
| Total Catch | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 192 | 0 |
| FR Chinook | 3 (adults) | | | | | 3 | |
| WR Chinook | | | | 1 (38mm) | 5 (34mm-40mm) | 189 | |
| SR Chinook | | | | | | | |
| LFR Chinook | | | | | | | |
| Ad-Clipped Chinook | | | | | | | |
| Delta Smelt | | | | | | | |
| Splittail | | | | | | | |
| Longfin Smelt | | | | | | | |
| Steelhead (ad-clip) | | | | | | | |
| Steelhead (wild) | | | | | | | |
| Green Sturgeon | | | | | | | |
| Flows (avg. cfs) | | | | 6,023 | 6,252 | 945 | |
| W. Temp. (avg. °F) | | | | 66 | 65 | 64 | |
| Turbidity (avg. NTU) | | | | 6 | 9 | 5 | |

^A Sampling period was from 9/16 at 2:15 pm to 10/4 at 10:00 am.

^B Sampling period was from 9/9 at 1:30 pm to 10/4 at 8:00 am.

Red Bluff Diversion Dam (RBDD)

USFWS biweekly report (9/10-9/23/15) for preliminary estimates of passage by brood-year and run for unmarked juvenile Chinook salmon captured by rotary screw traps at RBDD included:

| Run and Species | Biweekly Total | Brood Year Total |
|-----------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Winter-run Chinook (BY2015) | 70,564 | 95,368 |

Fish Salvage³:

No species of management concern have been salvaged.

DOSS Estimates of Fish Distribution

DOSS estimates of the current distribution of listed Chinook and steelhead, as a percentage of the population, are based on recent monitoring data and historical migration timing patterns. So far one juvenile winter-run sized Chinook has been observed at the Knight's Landing rotary screw trap. DOSS estimates the bulk of young-of-year winter-run Chinook are still upstream of the Delta. Young-of-year juveniles from other runs (fall, spring, late-fall) are assumed rare or absent; most spring-run juveniles have likely not emerged yet from redds, and peak fall-run and late-fall-run spawning has yet to occur.

Agenda Item 6.**WY 2015 LOBO Annual Review**

Dates: 11/5/14 (all day) & 11/6/14 (afternoon)

Topics:

- Shasta temperature modeling
- RAFT decision support tool
- enhanced Particle Tracking Model
- USFWS Delta Smelt incidental take calculation

Agenda Item 7.

DOSS Advice to WOMT and NMFS: None.

Agenda Item 8.

Next Meeting: The next DOSS conference call will be on 10/13/15 at 9am.

³Salvage data reported in this section represent the total estimated and expanded salvage based on the number of fish observed at the fish collection facility. For example, if one steelhead is observed in the typical ½-hour sampling period within a 2-hour operation period, the single steelhead is expanded to a salvage of four.